Cotswold Wild Life Park









Cotswold Wild Life Park

General Information

Times of opening:
The Park is open daily from 10 am to 6 pm or dusk (whichever is the earlier) every day of the year except Christmas Day.

Current Prices:
May be obtained by telephoning.

Telephone:
Park: Burford 3006
Restaurant: Burford 2005

Restaurant/Self-service Cafeteria:
Open daily for meals and snacks. At rear of Manor House. Seats 250. Large parties by appointment. The service is reduced in the winter.

Bar:
In the restaurant open 10 am to 2.30 pm.

Refreshment Kiosks:
Situated near the Zebra House, The Walled Garden, in Pets' Corner and near the Adventure Playground.

Gift Shop:
Gifts are sold in the main Gift Shop near the Car Park.

Lost Property:
Visitors are requested to report any item found or lost to the Office in the Manor House.

Dogs:
Dogs are permitted in the Park provided they are kept on a lead. No dogs are allowed in any of the Walk-Through enclosures.

Lost Children and First-Aid Post:
Situated in the Manor House near the Office.

Public Telephone:
Situated in the Entrance Hall of the Manor House and in the Restaurant.

Toilets:

1. Opposite the Offices in the Manor House (suitable for disabled)
2. Near the entrance to the Walled Garden
3. At the rear of house near Adventure Playground.
4. In the restaurant.

Party Rates:
Party rates are available for parties of 20 or more—or mini-bus loads. Please write for details.

Feeding times:
With the exception of the Penguins there are no specific feeding times. Penguin feeding times as on Notice Board.

Invalid Chairs:
A number of chairs are available for loan, free of charge. Please apply to Office.

Animal Brass Rubbing Centre:
In the old Dining Room of the Manor House. Open daily 1 pm to 4 pm or by prior booking for parties. Contact Education Department.

Conservation Display:
In Entrance Hall of Manor House. Always open.

Education Dept:
For residential courses contact Mr. M Molesworth. Telephone Carterton 842468 or write to: The Alvercot Field Studies Centre, Greystones, Lower End, Alvercot, Oxon.

The Cotswold Wild Life Park Society
If you are interested in further helping the Park ask for details of the Cotswold Wild Life Park Society at the Gift Shop. Alternatively we will be pleased to send details on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.
The Secretary, Cotswold Wild Life Park Society, Burford, Oxon OX8 4JW.

School Parties:
Party rates are available. Children **must** be accompanied by an adult at the ratio of one to twenty.

Bradwell Grove

The Park consists of a Gothic style Manor House built in 1804 to replace a previous Jacobean residence set in the midst of 120 acres of gardens and parkland, the centre of the 3,300 acres Bradwell Grove Estate, where for many centuries farming and forestry has combined to form a typical example of Cotswold life.

The owner, John Heyworth, inherited the estate from his grandfather, Colonel Heyworth Savage in 1949 and twenty years later decided to open the Park to the public. Our principal aim is to present a collection of mammals birds, reptiles, fish and insects from all over the world, living under almost natural conditions—a kind of zoo park where every species is provided with enough room and the correct conditions in which to live, and in recent years we have been rewarded by some important breeding successes, while at the same time help has been given to various wild life conservation projects. Careful landscaping helps to create an effect of natural unity between animals and plants, and the gardens are being constantly developed so that even those who are not particularly interested in animals can spend an enjoyable day simply wandering through the grounds.

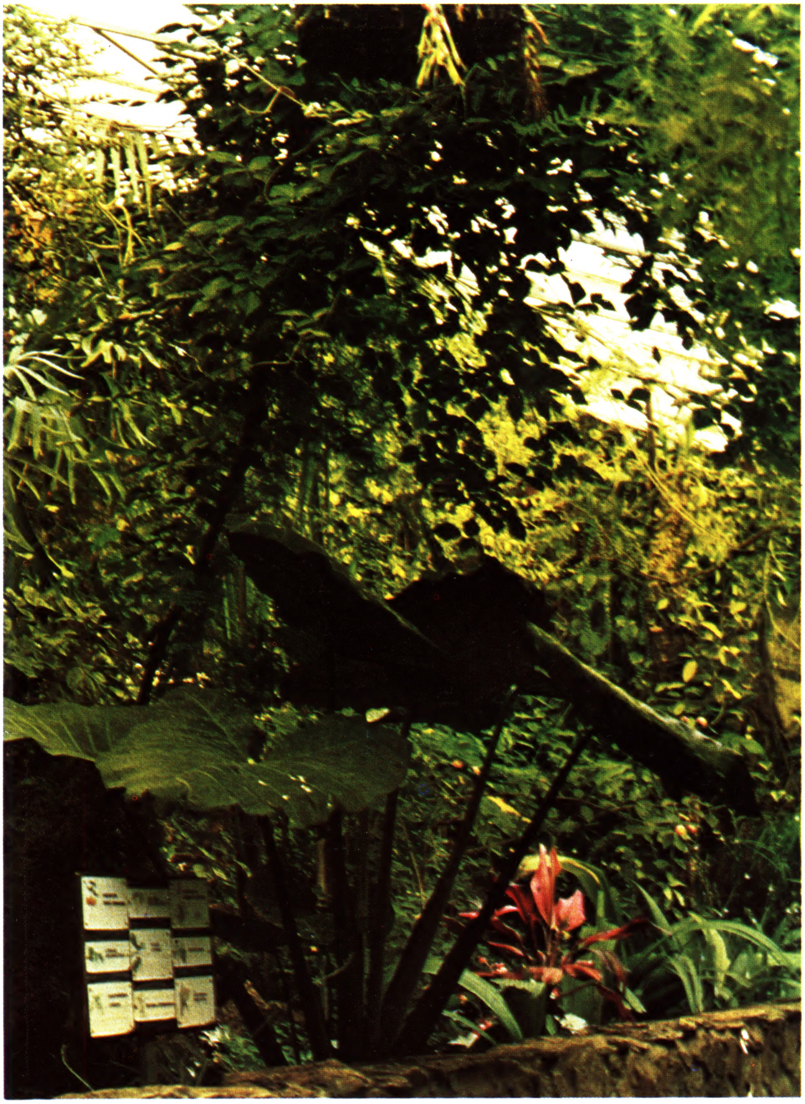
The Walled Garden

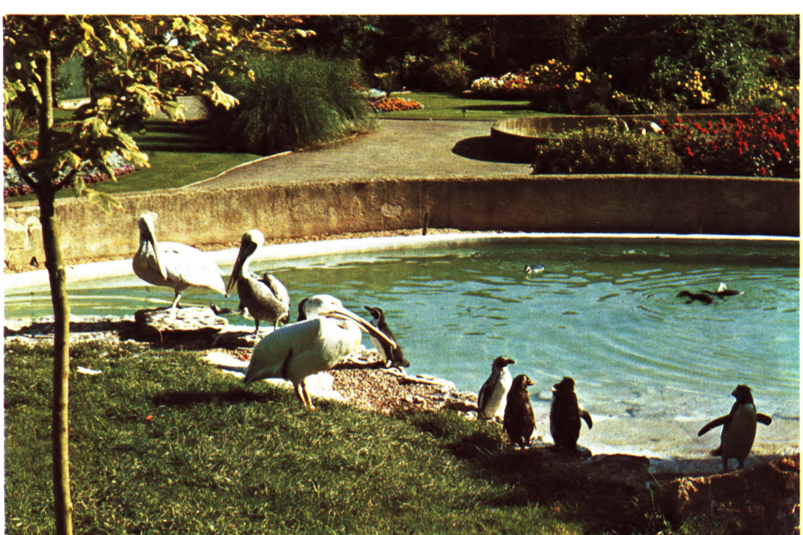
Originally a large Kitchen Garden where vegetables and fruit were grown for the household, the 12ft high walls of these 3½ acres give excellent protection from the harsh winter winds and thus provide an ideal enclosed site for the more delicate tropical mammals and birds.

The area has been laid out in a semi-formal style and brilliant displays of annual flowers can be seen in spring, summer and autumn.

Bradwell Grove Manor







Tropical House

Once the estate conservatory, this building has been enlarged and planted with lush tropical vegetation which includes such splendid varieties as Hibiscus, Colocasia, Dracaena, Ficus, (Rubber plants), Kentia (Palms) and Musa (Banana). Many species of Begonia harmonise with wall covering plants such as Bougainvillea, Plumbago, Abutilon, Hedera and Cissus.

A colourful variety of delicate tropical birds lives amongst this lush greenery and includes such species as the endearing little African and Asian White Eyes which frequently nest, Malabar Starlings, white fronted Bee-eaters which have also nested after burrowing into their artificial earth bank, Roulroul Partridges which are almost stupidly tame and several varieties of brilliant Hummingbirds from South America and Sunbirds from Africa which feed on specially manufactured nectar contained in small glass tubes which are hung up amongst the plants. It pays to linger in the Tropical House and gaze amongst the foliage as it may take a long time to see each inhabitant.

Top: Tropical House
Penguin Pool







Birds in the Garden

A variety of tropical birds can be seen in the spacious aviaries; giant Hornbills from S E Asia with their huge casqued beaks; their smaller cousins the Red-billed Hornbills of Africa which have bred frequently at the Park; those avian clowns the Toucans from South America of which there are several species to see; brilliantly coloured Lilac-breasted Rollers from East Africa (which have also bred); and handsome Crowned Pigeons from New Guinea with their subtle grey colours contrasting with brilliantly coloured Touracos from Africa.

In the large wader aviary there are Sacred Ibis, which were worshipped by the ancient Egyptians, Spoonbills, Herons and Ypecaha Wood Rails. Another aviary contains a dazzling variety of small finches, waxbills, canaries and Diamond Doves.

Brilliant pink Flamingoes from the Carribean share a pond and lawn with a mixed array of ornamental ducks. Adjoining them the fish eating Pelicans with their enormous bills wait patiently for their next meal.

In the Penguin enclosure, with its waterfalls and large swimming pool, Humboldt Penguins from Peru and amusing little Rock-hopper Penguins from Antarctica live in harmony. Both species now breed regularly at the Park in their specially provided nesting houses.

Amongst parrot like birds may be seen brilliantly coloured Amazons and Macaws of various species as well as a selection of smaller Parakeets including a breeding colony of multi-coloured budgerigars.

Top: Humboldt Penguin
Toucan
Bottom Left: Lilac Breasted Roller
Below: View of the Garden



Mammals in the Garden

In the Walled Garden may also be seen an interesting collection of unusual small mammals.

Coati Nasua nasua
These inquisitive little animals with their mobile snouts are related to the raccoons and are natives of South America where they travel about in the forests in small parties looking for all kinds of food including fruits, insects, eggs and small animals. Coatis are frequently bred and reared at the Park.

Small Clawed Otters
Ablonyx cinerea
There are several otter species distributed throughout the world and one of the smallest is the Small Clawed Otter of S E Asia. It is slightly less aquatic than most species and consequently more cosmopolitan in its diet—taking small mammals, birds, reptiles and insects as well as fish. It breeds in a hollow under tree roots usually near water and where 2 or 3 cubs may be born. Always popular, the Park's otters can usually be seen begging for food, but should not be fed by the public as they quickly become overweight if given a false diet.



Skunks Mephitis mephitis
The startling black and white colours of the North American Skunk act as a warning of what will follow if the animal is interfered with. Scent glands at the base of the tail can release a revolting odourous spray which will linger for days on anyone who is unlucky enough to come into contact with it. This is, of course, purely a protective mechanism which is extremely efficient. The Park's skunks have had a simple operation to remove these scent glands and are thus rendered noxious.

Skunks are omnivorous—taking fruit, vegetables and small animals. They may have from 4-7 young (kittens) in the spring.

Meerkats Suricata suricatta
Closely related to Mongooses the small carnivorous Meerkats of South Africa are popular due to their quaint habit of sitting on their hind feet and surveying the area like little old men. In the wild they live in colonies in sandy arid areas and catch small animals on which they feed. They have bred at the Park, the number of young being between 2 and 4.

Woodchucks Marmota monax
A common inhabitant of woodland the Woodchuck, North American Marmot or Ground Hog, is closely related to the ground squirrels and prairie dogs. It lives in burrows in the ground and is regarded as a pest due to its habit of chewing the bark from trees with its chisel-like rodent teeth. The woodchucks are great favourites at the Park, particularly at feeding time when the whole group sits around the feed dish in an upright stance each animal chewing at a morsel of food held in its "hands".

Red Squirrel Scirius vulgaris
In most parts of Britain the native European Red Squirrel has become extinct—being replaced



by its North American cousin the Grey Squirrel, *Scirius carolinensis*, which was deliberately introduced towards the end of the last century. It is perhaps ironic to say that the Red Squirrels at the Park were imported from Spain. They feed on seeds, pine cones nuts and fruit.

Chipmunks Tamias striatus
The Eastern Chipmunk is a small, striped, ground dwelling squirrel common in eastern North America where it loves to race along fallen logs. It races at such a speed that it is almost impossible to perceive its movement. It feeds on seeds, nuts and vegetable matter and has one litter of 4-6 young each year in the spring.

Squirrel Monkeys Saimiri sciurea
Named after its superficial resemblance to a squirrel this small South American monkey has a beautiful golden coat and white "spectacle" markings around its eyes. Despite its diminutive size it can be quite fierce and argumentative. It feeds on both fruit and insects and in captivity its diet is supplemented with baby cereal, milk and sugar. The gestation period is 6 months and the single well developed youngster may be born at any time of the year.

Capuchin Monkeys Cebus apella
The dark head markings of this monkey are said to resemble the hood of a Capuchin monk. In their native South American jungles they live in troops of up to 30 where they are tremendously acrobatic seeming to delight in showing off. They are primarily fruit eaters and are famous for being the original organ grinder's monkey.



Opposite: Otters
Top: Meerkat
Woodchucks

Pets Corner

Situated at the eastern end of the Walled Garden the Pets' Corner has been designed with children in mind. It is an area containing many popular pet animals which can be freely patted and stroked by the children. Here can be seen several varieties of domestic rabbits ranging from huge English Lops to diminutive Netherlands Dwarfs. There are also many varieties of Guinea Pigs, some in hutches others free range.

At certain times of the year there are lambs and kid goats amongst which the children are encouraged to mix, in the walk-in enclosure. There is also a variety of bantams, silkies, chickens, farmyard ducks, geese and guinea fowl all of which wander freely around the feet of the visitors.







Birds of Prey

Order: Falconiformes
The Birds of Prey are well represented at the Park in their huge aviaries. Renowned for their hunting or scavanging prowess, they have strong curved bills for tearing flesh, and powerful feet and claws used for killing and gripping their prey.

Bataleur Eagle
Terathopia ecaudatus
One of the more colourful members of the eagle tribe the Bataleur is found over much of the African Continent where it feeds on a variety of animals from small antelopes to venomous snakes. It nests in high trees and lays only a single egg.

Caracara Poliborus plancus
The Caracaras are a group of hawk like birds of prey with a wide distribution in both North and South America. In spite of their rather fierce appearance they feed mainly on carrion.

Griffon Vulture Gyps fulvo
The Griffon Vultures of Europe and North Africa are the real scavengers of the bird world. Large groups of them will soon appear wherever a carcass is to be found.

Lappet Faced Vulture
Torgos tracheliotus
Another large species from the African Continent the Lappet Faced Vulture has a totally bald head and neck—probably due to its habit of feeding inside carcasses. Occasionally this species captures its own prey.

Opposite: Pets Corner
Top: Lappet Faced Vulture
Caracara





The Owls

Order: Strigidiformes
Several species of owl may be seen at the Park and although they are often lumped together with the other birds of prey they are, in fact, totally unrelated, even being in different orders. The 120 or so species of owl are mainly nocturnal and extremely well adapted to this mode of life having highly developed senses of sight, smell and hearing. Prey is usually caught in the sharp claws and dispatched in a series of gulps. Owls are well-known for their habit of producing pellets of fur and bones.

Great Eagle Owl Bubo bubo
Two sub-species of this the largest of the owls are to be found at the Park. The European Eagle Owl, known as the "Uhu" on the Continent on account of its deep call; has fierce looking orange eyes and is an extremely powerful bird being able to overpower rabbits, hares and even the occasional lamb.

Snowy Owls Nyctea scandiaca
These beautiful birds are found across the arctic wastes of both the old and new worlds, where they hunt small animals such as lemmings and nestling birds. They nest on the ground and produce 2-4 chicks. The almost pure white male is easily distinguished from the slightly larger, dark spotted female.

Barn Owl Tyto alba
The Barn Owl has an almost world wide distribution and is quite common in Britain where it frequently hunts voles and mice on agricultural land. As its name implies, it is fond of barns as nesting and roosting sites.

Tawny Owl Strix aluco
Another common owl of British, European and Asian woodland the Tawny Owl is an important predator of harmful rodents. It usually nests in a hollow tree.

Little Owl Athene noctua
Originally introduced into Britain this small, fierce looking owl, feeds mainly on insects and may often hunt during daylight hours. Several races are to be found throughout Europe, Africa and Asia.

Opposite Top: Eagle Owl
Opposite Bottom: Snowy Owl
Eurasian Badger

Eurasian Badger Meles meles
Although it has always been a fairly common animal in Britain few people actually see a wild badger as it is very retiring in its habits. The badger is basically a carnivore of the Family Mustelidae but will eat fruits, roots and greenery as well as animal food ranging from grubs, worms and insects to voles and rabbits which they will often dig out of their burrows with their powerful claws.

Badgers live in family groups in a complicated burrow system known as a set. The size of the group and its territory depends on the availability of food in the area and badgers will fight ferociously to defend their territorial boundaries. Mating takes place in the autumn and delayed implantation means that the 2-4 naked and hairless cubs may not be born until February or March. It is a further 8-10 weeks before they are developed enough to venture above ground.

De Brazza's Monkey
Cercophithecus neglectus
Representing a group of African Monkeys known as Guenons of which there are 9 genera and 21 species the de Brazza's Monkeys are found in the forests of West Central Africa where they feed mainly on leaves and fruits but will supplement their diet with insects and birds eggs.



Most Guenons are brightly coloured and fairly small and can move very fast both in trees and on the ground. They live in troops of from 10-40 with one large male as the leader. Only the leader may mate with the females which, after 6 months, produce a single youngster which is weaned after a further 6 months.

Geoffroy's Spider Monkey
Ateles geoffroyi
The five species of Spider Monkey of Central and South America are named after their slender long hairy limbs, and prehensile tails which give them a "spidery" appearance. They are essentially tree dwellers and lack a thumb on the hand which would only get in the way as the animals swing through the branches.

When feeding on its diet of fruit, leaves and flowers, the heel of the hand is used as a thumb and the long tail may be used to pluck the more remote delicacies.

A single young is born after a gestation period of 4½ months. The baby clings to its mother's belly using limbs and tail and as it gets older it graduates onto its parents' back. One unusual feature of the Spider Monkey is the extraordinarily large clitoris of the female which often leads to it being mistaken for a male.

The Geoffroy's Spider Monkeys on view at the Park originate in Central America from southern Mexico to Panama.

Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae*
The amusing Emu which is one of the Ratites, large flightless birds related to the Ostrich, is a native of Australia where in the outback it is quite common, running around in groups of up to 20. They can do much damage to crops and Australian farmers occasionally organise Emu shoots to cull them.

The hens lay 7-15 dark green eggs which are incubated solely by the male for 52-63 days. The bantam sized chicks are buff with dark brown stripes and the male Emu looks after them until they are large enough to become independent which may be 18 months.

Puma, Cougar or Mountain Lion
Felis concolor
This large and fierce hunter may be found in many habitats in the Americas, from southern Alaska in the north to Tierra del Fuego at the southernmost tip of South America. Although originally a cosmopolitan animal; due to its hunting by man this big cat is now usually found only in the more remote rocky and mountainous areas. They are totally carnivorous and will prey on animals from the size of a small rodent to a large deer. They have been known to attack and kill domestic animals from sheep and goats to even cattle and horses.

After a gestation period of 90-96 days the female Puma will give birth to her 1-6 young in a cave or thicket.

Bottom Left: De Brazza Monkey
Bottom Right: Squirrel Monkey
Opposite Top: Puff Adder
Opposite Bottom: Common or Green Iguana





The Reptile House and Aquarium



The original stables at the rear of the Manor House have been converted into an efficient Reptile House and Aquarium where one will find examples of the three classes of the lower vertebrates. the Reptilia, the Amphibia and Pisces, (the fishes). As all three of these groups are cold-blooded or endothermic they are less adaptable to new climates than the warm blooded or ectothermic birds and mammals. Thus each vivarium or aquarium tank in these buildings has its own microclimate specially designed to emulate that of each exhibited species' native environment.

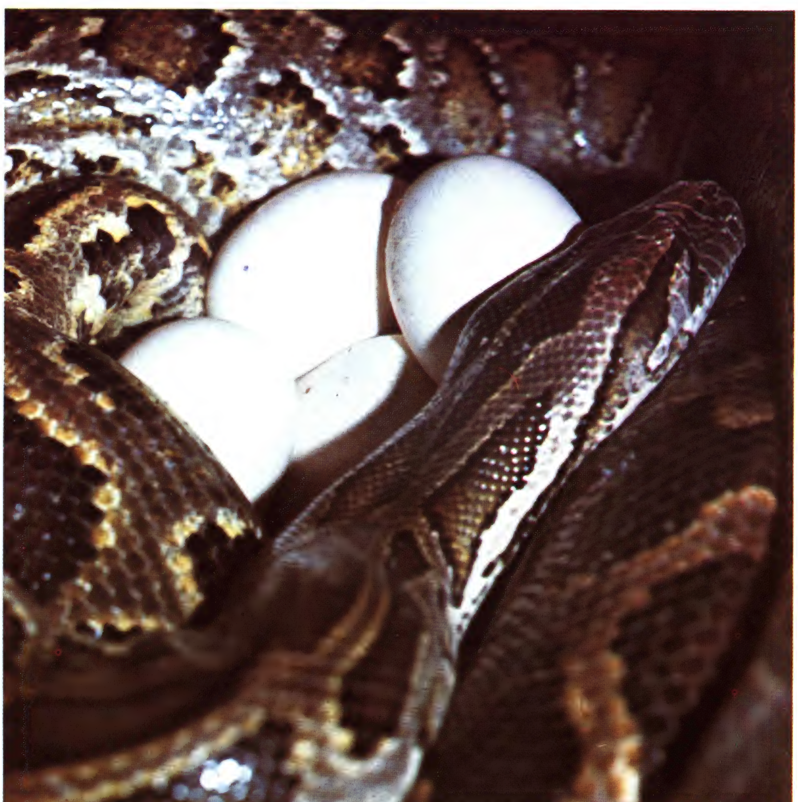
Class Reptilia: The Reptiles
Of the 6,000 species of reptile known to man all have several points in common which separate them from the other vertebrates, the most obvious being: the possession of a dry scaly skin, respiration with lungs and an endothermic constitution, (reliance on the environment for body temperature). Four groups of Reptiles are exhibited at the Park.



The Snakes

Order Squamata (Snakes and Lizards)
Sub Order Serpentes **The Snakes**
Characterised by lack of limbs, external ears and movable eyelids, the 2,700 or so species of snake known to man show a remarkable diversity of size, colour and habitat. From the 6 inch long burrowing snake Typhlops to the 30 feet long Reticulated Python Python reticulatus which may weigh up to four or five cwts; from the plain but subtly coloured Yellow Ratsnake, to the bizarre black and yellow Mangrove Snake; the bright red and pink Corn Snake or the multi-coloured Rhinoceros Viper. With the exception of the polar regions, snakes inhabit almost every environment, in the sea, fresh water, desert, jungle, tropical and temperate lands. Despite common belief about 90% of all snake species are harmless.





Puff Adder Bitis arietans
The Puff Adder is named after its ability to puff itself up to almost double its normal size when angry by drawing air into its large lung.

It feeds on a variety of small mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians which it kills by injecting a potent poison through its hypodermic-like fangs—two of which are found at the front of the upper jaw. Most vipers can produce 10-80 living young and the Puff Adder is no exception.

Green Tree Viper Trimeresurus popeorum
This small green serpent from S E Asia is an example of a pit viper which is related to the American Rattlesnakes. The 'pit' is a small orifice situated between the eye and the nostril, which contains an organ known as a heat receptor and which helps the snake to find its warm blooded prey.

Indian Python Python molurus bivittatus
A selection of large constricting snakes includes the Giant Anaconda and the Indian Pythons which are now frequently bred at the Park. The main difference between the Pythons and the Boas is that the former lay eggs and incubate them (see illustration) whilst the latter bear live young.

Top: Green Tree Viper
Python incubating eggs

The Lizards

Common or Green Iguana
Iguana iguana
These beautiful creatures come from Central and South America where they live in and on vegetation near to water into which they dive as soon as any danger threatens. They are used as a food item by the natives and are also collected extensively for the pet trade.

Order Squamata
Sub Order Lacertilia **The Lizards**
There are approximately 3000 living species of Lizard known today, with as much if not more diversity of form than the serpents. Sizes vary from a tiny 2 inch gecko of the West Indies to the powerful 12 foot Komodo Dragon of the East Indies.

Girdled Lizard Cordylus giganteus
The largest of the South African Zonures, the Girdled Lizard or Giant Zonure feeds on insects and other small animals in its domain on the rocky outcrops of the southern deserts and savannahs. Its body scales have developed into a protective spiny armour.

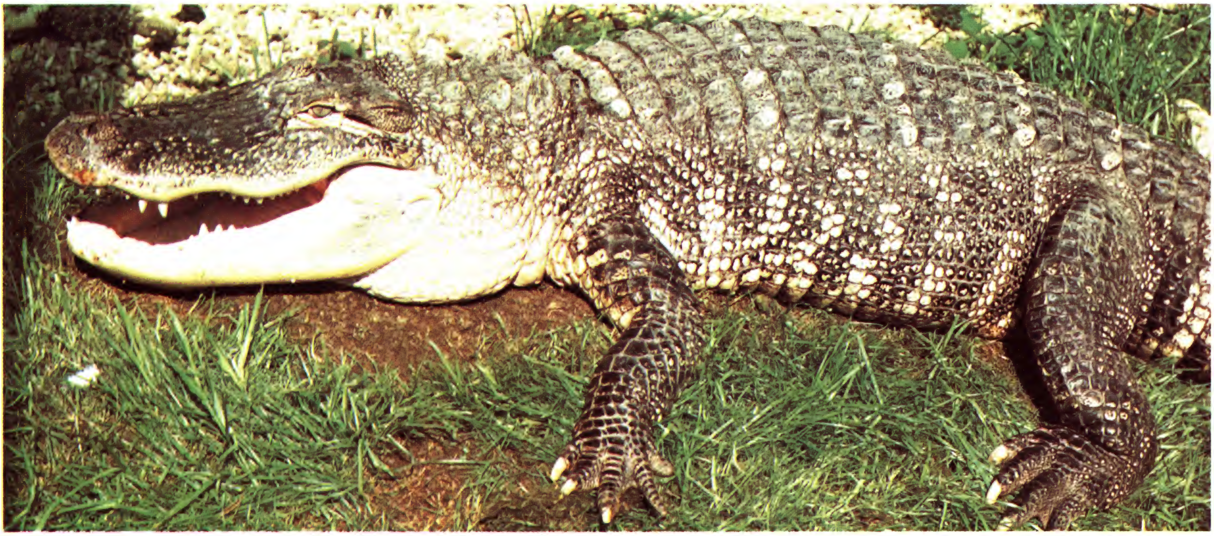
The Crocodilians

Order Crocodylia: The Crocodilians
Due to the predation of man the last living 25 species of crocodile, alligator, caiman and gavial are in imminent danger of total extinction if they are not protected. The Crocodylia are the predators of the world's tropical rivers where they will eat anything from small molluscs, crustaceans and fishes—to water birds and large herbivores.

American Alligator Alligator mississippiensis
Once on the verge of extinction the American Alligators of the Everglades and the Mississippi Basin have been saved by concerted conservational efforts including the actual "Farming" of the reptiles. The specimens at the Park have laid fertile eggs on several occasions, but so far none has hatched.



Girdled Lizard
Bottom: American Alligator







Tortoises Turtles Terrapins

Order Chelonia, Tortoises, Turtles, Terrapins
There are some 260 species of Chelonians those armoured creatures ranging in size from the 500 lb Giants of the Indian Ocean and Galapagos Islands to the tiny 4 inch Spider Tortoise of Madagascar from the giant 800 lb Luth or Leathery Turtle of the world's oceans to the 7 inch Chicken Turtle of North America.

Aldabra Giant Tortoise
Geochelone gigantea
The only remaining indigenous group of Giant Tortoises in the Indian Ocean are those on the island Atoll of Aldabra where scientists estimate some 10-20,000 still exist. Previously many islands had their own species of Giant Tortoise but early sailors found them easy prey for food and large numbers of the live reptiles would be stored on ship to be used as fresh meat later. Thus, with the exception of the Aldabra and

Top: Snapping Turtle
Giant Tortoise
Bottom Left: European Tree Frog
Bottom Right: Fire Salamander
Opposite Top: Squirrel Fish
Opposite Bottom: Piranha









Galapagos species, all have become extinct.

Class Amphibia: Frogs Salamanders, Caecilians
Amphibia are vertebrates which, in order to complete the early part of the life cycle must have water. Thus the common frog lays its spawn in water, the tadpoles hatch and eventually metamorphise from free swimming fish like larvae to land dwelling four legged frogs. Most of the 3000 species of living Amphibia are frogs.

Many Amphibia are brightly coloured to warn would-be predators of their distasteful or even poisonous skin.

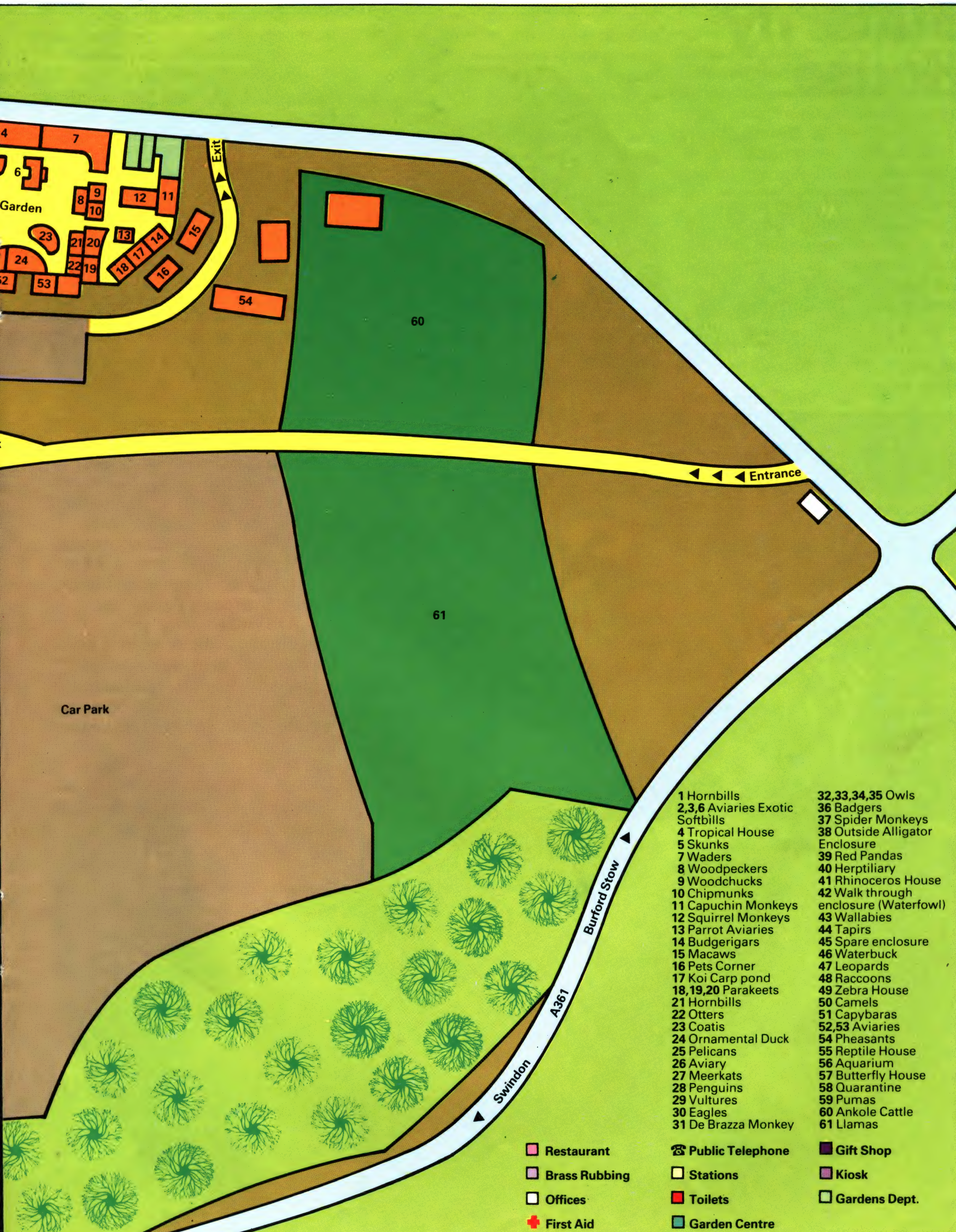
European Tree Frog Hyla arborea
The dainty little European Tree Frog can change colour from bright green through various shades to light brown to suit its mood or environment.

Fire Salamander Salamandra salamandra
The startlingly coloured yellow and black Fire Salamander of Europe was long thought by peasants to be born in a fire. This was due to its habit of hiding amongst damp firewood—the heat of the fire would then force it out. Some salamanders are unusual in laying living larvae into water courses instead of eggs.

Class Pisces: Fishes
Fishes belong to the largest vertebrate class, over 30,000 species being known to man. The Aquarium contains representatives of both tropical freshwater and tropical marine fishes in carefully decorated tanks. Here may be seen African Cichlids, giant Gouramis from Asia or the small brilliantly coloured Tetras from the Amazon basin.

Amongst the Marine or Coral Fish may be seen brightly coloured Clown Fishes, subtle Powder Blue Surgeons or comical Puffers. These marine fishes are not the easiest of inmates to keep in captivity and a complicated life support system in their tanks is necessary to keep them alive and in good health.


Tradesman Entrance
Pony Rides
Adventure Playground
Picnic Area
Walled
Car Park
Emus
Pay Kios
Manor House
Picnic Area
Picnic Area
Rhinoceros
Zebra
Eland
Ostrich
Gazelles
1
2
3
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
55
56
57
58
59


4
7
6
Garden
8
9
10
12
11
Exit
23
21
20
13
14
15
24
22
19
18
17
16
53
54
60
61
Entrance
Car Park
Burford Stow
A361
Swindon
1 Hornbills
2,3,6 Aviaries Exotic Softbills
4 Tropical House
5 Skunks
7 Waders
8 Woodpeckers
9 Woodchucks
10 Chipmunks
11 Capuchin Monkeys
12 Squirrel Monkeys
13 Parrot Aviaries
14 Budgerigars
15 Macaws
16 Pets Corner
17 Koi Carp pond
18,19,20 Parakeets
21 Hornbills
22 Otters
23 Coatis
24 Ornamental Duck
25 Pelicans
26 Aviary
27 Meerkats
28 Penguins
29 Vultures
30 Eagles
31 De Brazza Monkey
32,33,34,35 Owls
36 Badgers
37 Spider Monkeys
38 Outside Alligator Enclosure
39 Red Pandas
40 Herptiliary
41 Rhinoceros House
42 Walk through enclosure (Waterfowl)
43 Wallabies
44 Tapirs
45 Spare enclosure
46 Waterbuck
47 Leopards
48 Raccoons
49 Zebra House
50 Camels
51 Capybaras
52,53 Aviaries
54 Pheasants
55 Reptile House
56 Aquarium
57 Butterfly House
58 Quarantine
59 Pumas
60 Ankole Cattle
61 Llamas
Restaurant
Brass Rubbing
Offices
First Aid
Public Telephone
Stations
Toilets
Garden Centre
Gift Shop
Kiosk
Gardens Dept.

Butterfly House

One only has to look at Insect Houses in Zoos and Parks around the country to appreciate that the Cotswold Wild Life Park Butterfly and Insect House is, to say the least, special. Though small, the exhibits are of tremendous impact and captivate visitors for, in many instances, longer than some of our larger animals.

In particular the Park's resident entomologist specialises in the breeding of exotic butterflies and during the summer months the large flight area housing the live butterflies together with exotic shrubs and flowers provides visitors with a beautiful colourful spectacle rarely seen.

A very sophisticated display is that of the Leaf Cutting Ants. This clever exhibit is arranged so that the whole fascinating private life of these incredible little creatures can be clearly seen.

There was great excitement when the nest of ants was collected from London in late 1976 being carried by hand from Trinidad. The excitement was followed by a little disappointment and some apprehension when the long awaited colony only consisted of a tiny walnut size fungus garden containing about 30 ants. However, with much dedicated effort, constant observation and experimentation, the colony has now reached the proportions of some two to three hundred thousand with fungus garden nests as large as rugby balls. The ants' "antics" can hold an observer for as long as an hour.

The observation bees' hive was set up in the late spring of 1977 and the swarm was kindly donated and installed by Mr G Gambrill of Wroughton. It is an observation hive with a difference, our entomologist wanting to show how bees would colonize a hollow tree rather than a domesticated arrangement. No honey is collected from the hive, the bees seem to thrive with little attention.

Amongst the other exhibits which include giant Stick Insects, locusts and cockroaches are the giant spiders. These huge members of the family Arachnidae seem to strike horror and sometimes even terror in to our visitors, however, our entomologist is particularly fond of the spiders and has actually achieved a mating with a pair of Red Legged Tarantulas, Brachypelma smithi colima. The female built a large nest and subsequently laid eggs making it one of the rare occasions this species has been bred anywhere in the world.

The Insect House is run by John Stone who has enjoyed a number of notable successes in his field. He was elected to the fellowship of the Royal Entomological Society of London in 1972 and has done much conservation work with butterflies. John Stone is the only livestock exhibiting concessionaire on the Park, and was introduced to the owner by Mr Michael Molesworth (Director of Alvescot Field Study Centre).





Top: Heliconid Butterfly
Bottom: Red Legged Tarantula
Opposite Top: Zebra
Opposite Bottom: White Rhinoceros



African Enclosure

In 1973 four acres of land to the south of the Manor House were converted into an "African Plains" enclosure in which a selection of "big game" animals would live harmoniously together. The enclosure is surrounded by ha-ha ditches which give an unobstructed view of the animals whilst keeping them enclosed. The following species are to be seen in the African Enclosure:

White Rhinoceros
Ceratotherium simum
The largest of the five living species of Rhino and the largest land animal after the two elephant species, the White Rhinoceros of East and South Africa weighs up to





3½ tons. It gets its common name not because it is white but because of a corruption of the Afrikaans word 'wijde' which refers to the wide grazing mouth of this animal as opposed to the pointed browsing lip of the Black Rhinoceros, the other African species. The horns are composed of hard compressed hairlike keratin rather than true bone and the animals are continuously rubbing them down.

White Rhinos normally live in small herds dominated by a leading male who marks his territory with dung and urine. A single calf is born after a gestation period of 15-18 months. The animals are usually very docile but may be aggressive and excitable during the mating seasons.

Chapman's Zebra Equus quagga chapmani
There are three species of Zebra in the African continent and several sub-species of the Common Zebra. Chapman's Zebra, which can be seen at the Park, is easily distinguished from the other living sub-species by having a subsidiary buff coloured stripe through the white areas.

An adult Common Zebra may weigh from 500-600 lbs. A single foal is born after a gestation period of approximately 12 months.

The newborn foal weighing about 60 lbs is, within minutes, able to stand up and even run if danger threatens.

Cape Eland Taurotragus oryx
The Eland is the largest of all antelopes and the Cape Eland is found in Eastern and Southern Africa. It may weigh up to 1800 lbs and stand over 6 ft high at the shoulders. The animals are easily distinguished from other antelope by their robust appearance and by the strange dewlaps hanging from the underside of their necks. Eland are mainly browsers feeding on the leaves of plants and shrubs. A single calf is born after a gestation period of about 9 months.

Thomson's Gazelle Gazella thomsoni
The delicate looking Thomson's Gazelles from East Africa weigh only 40-60 lbs when fully grown. They are extremely nervous and alert animals and can produce an amazing turn of speed at the slightest disturbance; an indication of their somewhat precarious existence in the wild, being under constant predatory threat.

A single calf is born after a gestation period of 6 months.

Ostrich Struthio camelus
The world's largest bird, the Flightless Ostrich, is a grazer and browser of the African plains. A fully grown adult may stand up to 8 ft in height and may weigh up to 350 lbs. When threatened by predators it can escape at speeds of up to 40 mph.

Groups of 4-10 grey-brown females are usually led by a single, mainly black plumaged male. Up to 70 eggs from the females may

Opposite: Eland
Thomson's Gazelle





be deposited in a communal nest scrape on the ground and much of the incubation is carried out by the male.

Waterbuck Kobus ellipsiprymnus
The stately Waterbuck lives in the savannah regions of South and East Africa. The white ring around its rump distinguishes it from its close relative the Defassa Waterbuck, which has white buttocks but no ring. Males have long slightly curved horns which they use to defend their territories which may contain up to two dozen females and youngsters.

The Waterbuck at the Park are a breeding group.

Leopard Panthera pardus
The powerfully built leopard (a large adult weighs up to 180 lb) is found in almost the whole of Africa with the exception of the Sahara region, several races are also found throughout southern and central Asia from Arabia in the west to Korea in the East.

The leopard prefers dense cover in which to hunt its prey which



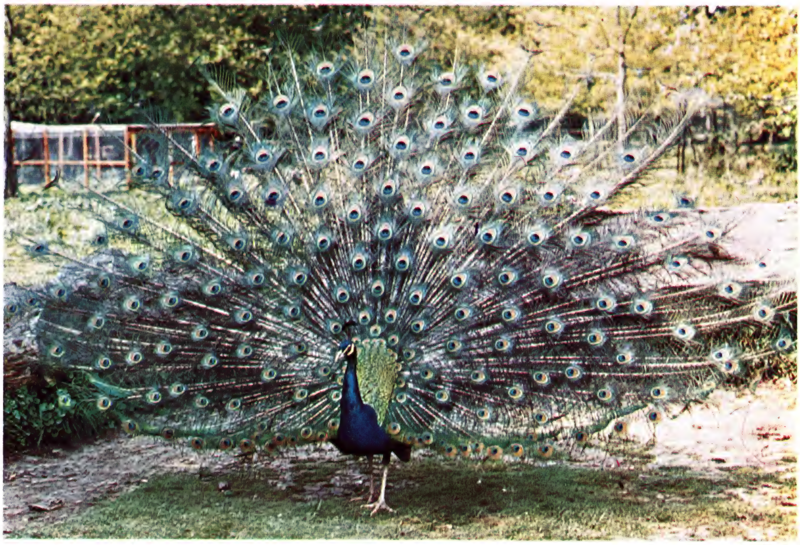
includes a wide variety of animals from birds and monkeys, to gazelles and impalas. One characteristic of the leopard is its habit of storing uneaten meat high up on the branches of a tree to which it returns later in order to finish its meal.

After a gestation period of about 100 days the female gives birth to 2-4 helpless cubs. The leopards at the Park have produced youngsters on several occasions, most of which have grown up and gone to other zoos.

Opposite Top: Ostrich
Opposite Bottom: Waterbucks
Leopard



The Walk Through Enclosures





Specially designed to allow visitors a feeling of closer contact with some of the more docile mammal and bird species, the Walk-Through Enclosures contain an interesting variety of waterfowl, cranes, and paddock animals.

The area contains a group of pink Chilean Flamingoes, Phoenicopterus ruber chilensis. In the wild these birds live in muddy, alkaline lakes often gathering in countless thousands. Their food consists of a highly nitrogenous mush containing a rich mixture of algae, protozoans, small worms and other minute forms of animal life. The flamingo's beak contains an efficient mechanism for straining off the the solid particles. In captivity the birds are fed a mixture of "Flamingo diet" and expanding wheat pellets. The former is a specially manufactured mixture of various components designed to give the birds a balanced diet as well as pigment inducing agents to help the birds maintain their bright pink colours.

Flamingoes are found throughout the tropics in Africa, Asia, the Americas and even southern Europe.

Many species of waterfowl on the lake include Black Swans, Cygnus atratus, Snow Geese Anser caerulescens, Bar Headed Geese Anser indicus, Shelduck Tadorna tadorna Mallard Anas platyrhynchos, Tufted Duck Aythya fuligula Carolina Duck Aix sponsa and Pintail Anas acuta.

Other birds in the enclosure include Demoiselle Cranes Anthropoides virgo one of the four species of crane found at the Park. Cranes feed on a variety of small animals such as insects, birds and lizards as well as grain and vegetable matter. The Demoiselle cranes at the Park have hatched youngsters on several occasions.

The elegant African Crowned Cranes Balearica pavonina are also to be seen strutting about in this enclosure together with Lilford Cranes Grus grus Peafowl Pavo cristatus and Guinea Fowl Numida meleagris.

The largest of all cranes is the Sarus Crane of India which may stand 5 ft 6 ins in height. It is a

uniform light grey with white wing tips and tail with a scarlet head. One of the pairs at the Park regularly nests and produces youngsters some of which have been reared. Two eggs are laid in a scrape in the ground and these are incubated by both sexes for about 35 days.

Peafowl Pavo cristatus
One of the world's most spectacular sights must be the Peacock in full mating display. The peafowl at the Park are semi-wild and rear their young in the surrounding woods. During the summer months pea-hens may be seen escorting their broods of 4-10 chicks about the Park.

Bennett's Wallaby Protemnodon rufogrisea
At present the only representations of that primitive mammalian order the Marsupiala (Pouched mammals), to be found at the Park are the Kangaroo like Bennett's Wallabies which are fairly common in the Australian bush country. Like the kangaroos and other marsupials the single young is born at a very early stage and is little larger than a 1p piece at birth when it has to make its way from the vaginal opening of the female into the pouch where it attaches itself to one of the teats. It remains in the pouch for about 8 months before venturing out but will continue to use the pouch as a hiding place for a further three or four months. All kangaroos and wallabies are totally herbivorous eating grass and the leaves of shrubs. Bennett's Wallaby is extremely hardy and adaptable and a group of these animals has maintained itself in the wild in Derbyshire since before World War II.

Brazilian Tapir Tapirus terrestris
In spite of their pig-like appearance Tapirs are Odd-Toed Ungulates which makes them relatives of the horses and the rhinos. In fact they bear many similarities to some of the horse's ancestors. They have four toes on the front feet and three on the rear each having a small hoof. The snout has developed into a short "trunk" which is useful for plucking foliage whilst browsing or grazing.

Tapirs are mainly nocturnal and seem to prefer dense undergrowth near to water.

There are four species of Tapir—three from South America and one from Malaya. The Brazilian Tapirs at the Park have produced several youngsters over the years. One calf is born after a gestation period of 13 months. Unlike the adults the calf has light coloured stripes for camouflage which it loses at about six months old.

Opposite Top: Peacock
Opposite Bottom: Flamingoes
Brazilian Tapir







Capybara Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris
The largest of all rodents or gnawing animals the Capybara may weigh as much as 120 lbs. Bearing a resemblance to large Guinea Pigs, to which they are in fact closely related, Capybaras being semi-aquatic, live in the jungles of South America near rivers and lakes where they swim surprisingly well using their webbed rear feet. They feed mainly on aquatic and semi-aquatic vegetation but will occasionally move out onto the grassy plains to graze.

Raccoon Procyon lotor
In a family closely related to the Pandas the well-known Raccoons of North America are renowned for their habit of "washing" their food before they eat it. This is probably due to the fact that most of their staple diet consists of amphibia, crustaceans and molluscs which the animals fish out of the mud and gravel at the edge of rivers using their delicately formed "hands". It will also eat a certain amount of vegetable matter as well as catch the odd small land animal. The gestation period of 65 days is followed by the birth of 3-6 cubs. Young raccoons are frequently hand reared to make cute but intensely mischievous and inquisitive pets.

Camels Camelidae
The Family Camelidae contains 6 species, the well-known Bactrians and Dromedaries from the Old World and the four New World species the Llama, Alpaca, Guanaco and Vicuna. All species are even-toed ungulates—related to pigs and cattle, but instead of hooves their two toes on each foot have developed thick leathery non-skid pads which help them move in either snowy or desert environments.

Bactrian Camel Camelus bactrianus
The two-humped or Bactrian Camel is used as a pack animal in the cold steppes of central Asia. It is well equipped to withstand the cold with its thick layers of fat and its warm fur coat. The Bactrian



Camel is now almost totally domesticated there being only about 500 wild specimens in the Gobi desert.

Llamas Llama glama
Llamas are the pack animals of the Andes region in South America where they are almost totally domesticated. As well as being used for transport they provide meat and wool for the natives of the foothills. Llamas may vary in colour from white through shades of brown to almost black or even piebald. They live in groups of 10-15 controlled by a dominant male.

Ankole Cattle
A variety of domestic cattle the Ankole, Anhole or Watussi cattle of East Africa are noted for their enormous horns which may be as much as 6 ft in span from tip to tip.

Opposite Top: Capybara
Opposite Bottom: Raccoons
Top: Camels
Bottom: Llamas



Red Panda Ailurus fulgens
The Mascot of the Wild Life Park this diminutive cousin of the better-known Giant Panda is an inhabitant of the Himalayan forests at heights of 7000-12000 feet.

The Red Panda is almost totally arboreal and is a careful but adept climber as it moves about mainly at dusk and dawn in search of its diet of leaves, berries, eggs and nestlings. It is particularly fond of bamboo which it chews up in its powerful jaws.

The one or two young are born in a hollow tree or rocky den after a gestation period of 90 days. They are not easy to breed and rear in captivity but the Cotswold Wild Life Park is endeavouring to provide them with all the amenities necessary to encourage them to reproduce.

In April 1978 the male Red Panda "Radar" was adopted as the official mascot of Cotswold Radar RAF, commissioned as Pilot Officer "Radar" and officially taken on strength of the RAF and NATO forces.

Red Panda
Opposite Top: Restaurant and Bar
Opposite Bottom: Childrens Playground



The Park Facilities

Restaurant/Self-Service Cafeteria and Bar
Annexed to the south wing of the Manor House overlooking the picnic lawn the restaurant seats 250 people. It is open for meals and snacks throughout the day. The fully licensed bar situated in the restaurant is open from 10 am-2.30 pm daily.

Adventure Playground
The extremely popular adventure playground at the Park has, in addition to the conventional swings and see-saws a number of imaginative timber and rope constructions upon which children love to climb. It is conveniently situated near the restaurant at one end of the main picnic lawn so that





while parents are relaxing on the lawn or eating their lunch, the children can be enjoying themselves on the ropes and swings.

Pony Rides
Pony and Donkey rides are available for the children at most times during the summer months unless it is very wet. The pony and trap are also available on fine days and the rides are always under proper supervision.

Train Rides
Installed in 1974 the narrow gauge railway consists of two diesel driven engines and several carriages providing an easy and enjoyable way of getting round the Park. The main station is situated near the Vultures and tickets may be obtained there or on the train itself.

Top: Pony Rides
Bottom: Miniature Railway





Education

Residential Courses

The courses, of 2-5 days duration, involve environmental studies at the Park and are designed to make children aware of Conservation and what it means. Modern dormitory accommodation is provided at the Field Studies Centre at Alvescot just three miles away.

These courses, which now attract about 2,000 children a year from schools all over Britain, are run in conjunction with the Alvescot Field Studies Centre under the Directorship of Mr M N Molesworth and are mainly available to children in the 8-12 age group, by arrangement with their local School Authority.

Enquiries should be made to your local School Authority or direct to Mr M Molesworth, Director, The Alvescot Field Studies Centre, Greystones, Lower End, Alvescot, Oxon.

Events

Interesting events take place at the Park about once a month during the summer. These include Horse Shows, Historic Vehicle Rallies etc. Entrance to these events is free once you are inside the Park.

Animal Brass Rubbing Centre

The Animal Brass-Rubbing Centre is in the former dining-room of the Manor House, next to the Restaurant and overlooking the White Rhinos. There is a large selection in brass of Endangered Species, together with information leaflets and work sheets for Schools. Visitors are invited to walk round without obligation to spend any money. Those who do wish to do a rubbing will find that all materials are provided (all of professional standard). No previous experience is necessary; trained assistants will willingly give help where needed. The result of some ten minutes' concentration and enjoyment is a souvenir which could last many years if looked after properly.

Various World Wild Life Fund posters are on sale as available. Profits from this Centre go to the World Wild Life Fund. The venture is an experiment in conjunction with the World Wild Life Fund special project for the promotion of Conservation education.A video-tape of Conservation programmes is available to schools on request, including "Why Conserve Nature" (20 minutes) by Sir Peter Scott. Enquiries to the Education Department.

Left: Education Department
Right: Brass Rubbing





Over 200,000 trees have been planted on the Bradwell Grove Estate during the last thirty years, the hardwoods being mainly Oak, Beech, Ash, Lime, Sycamore and Cherry and the softwoods Larch, Norway Spruce, Scots Pine, Lawson's Cypress and Red Cedar. Disease has recently killed all our Elms and many Beech and Sycamore, while winter gales have done further damage, but numerous fine trees can still be seen at the Park, outstanding among them being the Oak by the Conservatory, reckoned by experts to be 800 years old, and the Wellingtonia, a mere 130 years of age, that dominates the surrounding countryside. Other species include Chestnuts, Maples, Poplars, Scarlet and Cork Oaks, Cedars, Californian Redwoods and many ancient Yews. Large numbers of smaller ornamental trees and shrubs have also been planted.

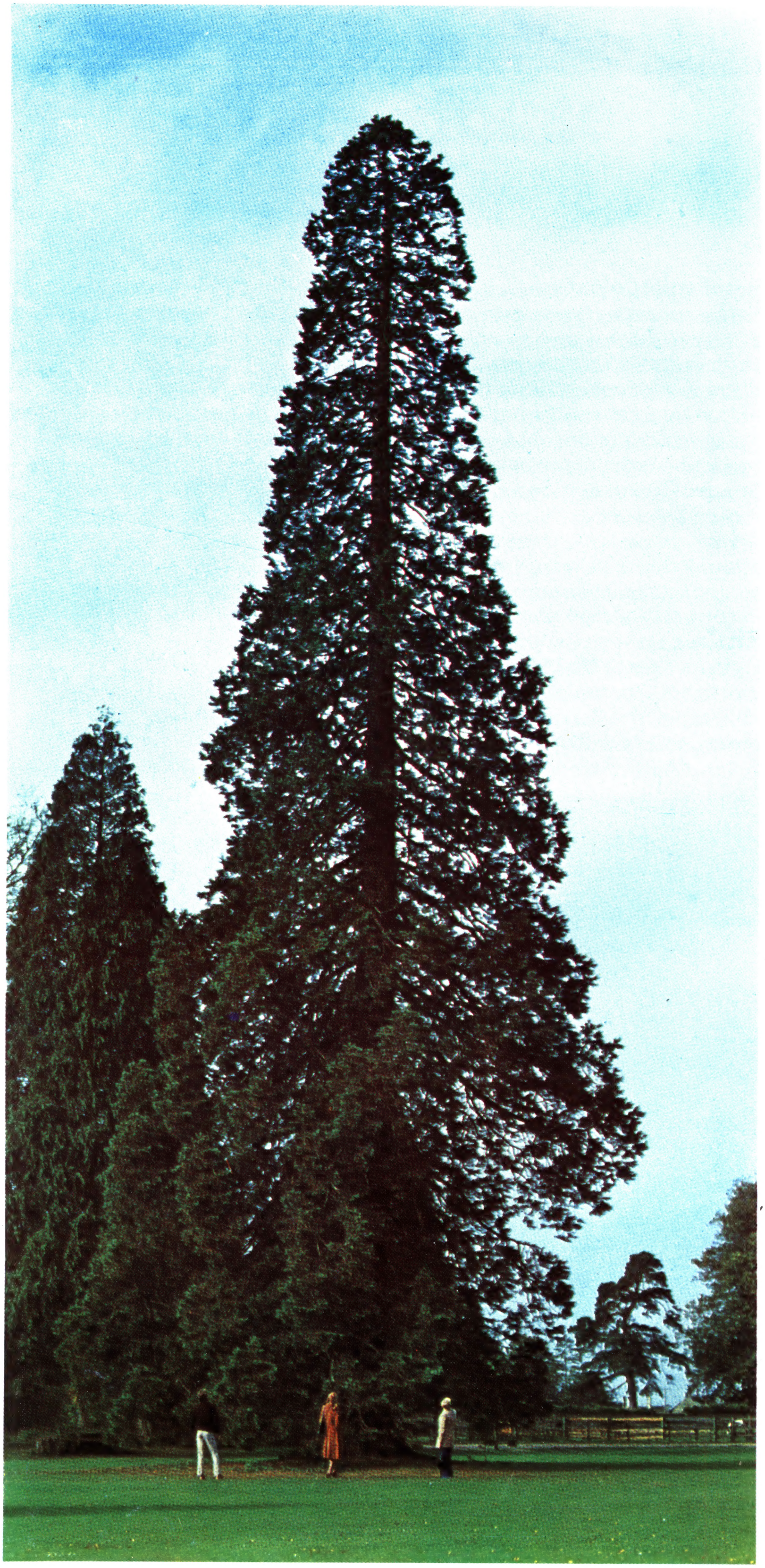
Cotswold Pheasant Project

In 1978, with the help of the World Pheasant Association, we decided to build an aviary complex for the breeding of some of the world's rarest species of wild pheasant. Several of our suppliers donated funds towards the construction of these aviaries and some have sponsored a complete unit.

If, as we hope, breeding is successful we intend to send fertile pheasant eggs back to their country of origin where they will be hatched and reared before being released into the wild, thus contributing to the conservation of some of these endangered species.

Quarantine

The Park has its own Ministry approved, three-unit quarantine station in which small mammals may spend their obligatory six month quarantine period directly after arrival from abroad. These units may be used as temporary quarters for other animals when they are not being used for quarantine.



Wellingtonia Tree
Opposite: Quarantine

E3783/20M/7/81



Visitors will understand that we cannot guarantee the animals mentioned in this brochure will be on view at all times. This may be due to the naturally shy and retiring habits of some who will only show themselves at certain times, or to particular animals being moved or confined for their own welfare or for alterations to their enclosures. We do however make every effort to ensure that visitors see as many animals as possible.

Designed and printed by Photo Precision Ltd.,
St. Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs.



